



Maryland Economic Update

March 14, 2016

Summary

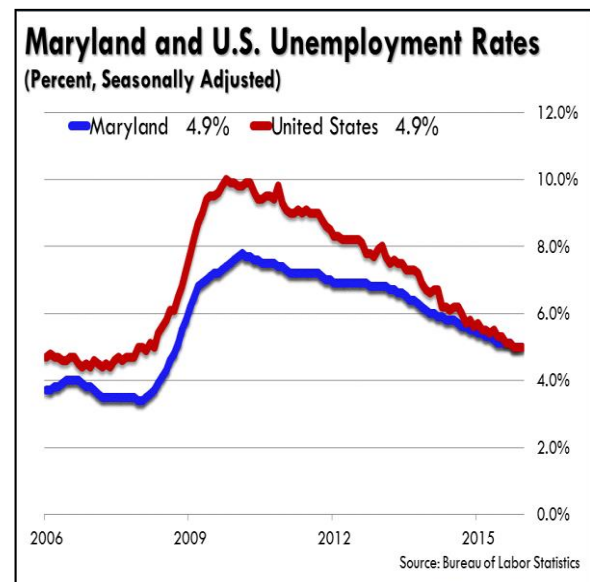
Nonfarm payroll employment in Maryland increased by 1,900 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent in January according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Maryland Unemployment Rate

During January, the unemployment rate in Maryland declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4,494 in January to 153,895, while the labor force grew by 4,195 to 3,163,901. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Maryland. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Maryland stood at 5.4 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Maryland was 7.8 percent in February 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Maryland occurred in March 1982 when the unemployment rate reached 8.5 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Maryland was 3.4 percent in January 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in Maryland occurred in December 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3.3 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February. February's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Maryland Payroll Employment

Maryland nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,900 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,300. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Maryland increased by 44,800, or 1.70 percent. Maryland nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

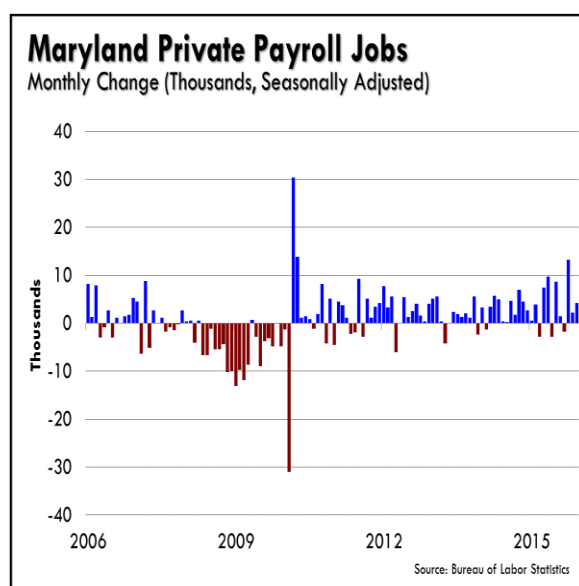
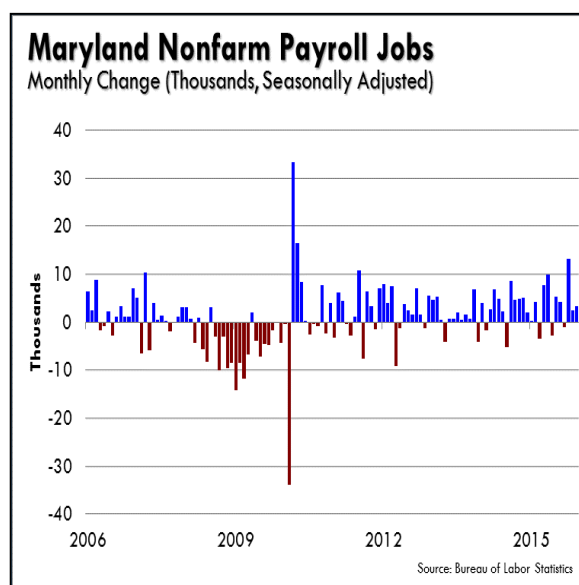
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 242,000 jobs in February, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,672,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent. Maryland ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, Maryland private sector payrolls declined by 400, or 0.02 percent. Private sector payrolls increased by 4,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Maryland increased by 43,000, or 2.01 percent. Maryland private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 230,000 jobs in 1.9, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,597,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.18 percent.

Maryland ranks 20th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, total government payroll employment in Maryland increased by 2,300, or 0.46 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.07 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 800, or 0.72 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,600, or 0.65 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,800, or 0.36 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 500, or 0.45 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 800, or 0.32 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during January were Professional & Business Services (+2,800) and Total Government (+2,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-4,900) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,300).

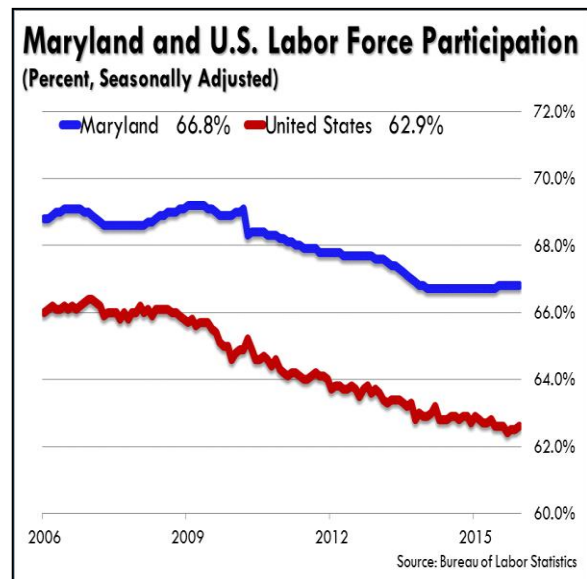
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+11,100) and Leisure & Hospitality (+9,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Information (-1,900) and Educational & Health Services (+1,500).

Other Maryland Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Maryland was unchanged at 66.8 percent in January. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have a higher labor force participation rate than Maryland. The labor force participation rate in Maryland is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Maryland was 69.2 percent in May 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Maryland occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent in June 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in June 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Maryland civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 63.6 percent in January from 63.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Maryland. The employment-to-population ratio in Maryland is 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland was 66.4 percent in January 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maryland occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 68.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.7 percent in April 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 59.8 percent in February. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for February is scheduled for release on March 25, 2016. The national employment situation report for February was released on Friday, March 4, 2016.

